IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (New): A method of remotely distributing information packet routes to routers of a network, comprising:

suggesting an explicit route determined by an explicit routing algorithm not distributed to routers of the network, the explicit route suggested for replacing a first route determined by a routing algorithm of one of the routers;

checking that the explicit route is substantially free of potential loops, errors, and excessive traffic; and

distributing, after the checking, the explicit route to the one of the routers.

Claim 16 (New): The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

establishing the explicit route; and

detecting loops, errors, and excessive traffic of the established explicit route; and

adjusting the explicit route in response to the detection of loops, errors, and excessive traffic.

Claim 17 (New): The method of Claim 16,

wherein the suggesting, checking, and distributing are performed by an external routing manager agent part (ERMap) unit, and

wherein the establishing, detecting, and adjusting are performed by an external routing manager router part (ERMrp) unit.

Claim 18 (New): The method of Claim 17,

wherein the ERMrp unit provides feedback information to the ERMap unit.

Claim 19 (New): The method of Claim 16,

wherein the first route, or a second route determined by the routing algorithm of the

one of the routers, replaces the explicit route when the explicit route is no longer needed or

desired.

Claim 20 (New): The method of Claim 15, wherein the network is an internet

protocol network.

Claim 21 (New): A device for remotely distributing information packet routes to

routers of a network, comprising:

a first computer code product configured to suggest an explicit route determined by an

explicit routing algorithm not distributed to routers of the network, the explicit route

suggested for replacing a first route determined by a routing algorithm of one of the routers;

and

a second computer code product configured to check that the explicit route is

substantially free of potential loops, errors, and excessive traffic; and

a third computer code product configured to distribute, after the check by the second

computer code product, the explicit route to the one of the routers.

Claim 22 (New): The device of Claim 21, further comprising:

a fourth computer code product configured to establish the explicit route; and

3

a fifth computer code product configured to detect loops, errors, and excessive traffic of the established explicit route; and

a sixth computer code product configured to adjust the explicit route in response to the detection of loops, errors, and excessive traffic.

b\

Claim 23 (New): The device of Claim 22,

wherein the first, second, and third computer code products are comprised within an external routing manager agent part (ERMap) unit, and

wherein the fourth, fifth, and sixth computer code products are comprised within an external routing manager router part (ERMrp) unit.

Claim 24 (New): The device of Claim 23,

wherein the ERMrp unit provides feedback information to the ERMap unit.

Claim 25 (New): The device of Claim 22,

wherein the first route, or a second route determined by the routing algorithm of the one of the routers, replaces the explicit route when the explicit route is no longer needed or desired.

Claim 26 (New): The device of Claim 21, wherein the network is an internet protocol network.